problems lawyers are called upon to solve and the reasonableness of the solutions in general. To obtain a conception even of the general principles of the law will require from the layman some mental effort. There is no royal road in law any more than in mathematics or philosophy, but the author has made the way as easy as possible.

A lawyer's familiarity with the subject matter will make the book simple reading and yet well worth while, for the author has presented in an attractive manner the unifying theory of jurisprudence which is so lacking in the education of the American lawyer. This is not done by a formal and repellent abstract analysis, but by apt illustrations which flow so easily from the author's scholarly knowledge of comparative law. What is the aim of the law? Is it, as Ihering stated, to delimit interests, or is it as the author would have "to regulate the attribution and exercise of power over persons and things in social intercourse". One who reads the author's interesting chapter on this subject can hardly resist pursuing the controversy further. We need more books like this.

*A. M. K.*

TRIAL OF JOHN ALEXANDER DICKMAN. Edited by S. O. Rowan-Hamilton. Notable Trial Series. William Hodge & Co., 12 Bank St., Edinburgh, Scotland. 1914. pp. viii, 208, 5s net.

This is an interesting and valuable series which should be a part of every law library. The testimony in each case is given in narrative form, all exhibits are printed in full with facsimiles of the handwriting where necessary. Each volume contains an introduction and other helpful editorial matter. The value of such a series for future generations can hardly be overestimated. The importance, however, is not confined to the future. These tales of actual crime surpass in interest the ever popular detective stories of fiction. Few novels offer the fascinating study in criminal psychology presented by the fatal infatuation of Mary Blandy, or by the marvelous self-possession of Madeleine Smith, both trials included in the volumes already published.

For the lawyer, to the charm of the mystery there is added the keen intellectual enjoyment derived from the development of the case by the actual examination of the witnesses, by the arguments of skilled counsel, and by the summing up of able judges. For the student, such trials would seem well adapted for study in conjunction with Professor Wigmore's Principles of Judicial Proof. The construction of an argument from the testimony and exhibits of an interesting case is a practical legal study of no small advantage. The trial of Dickman, hanged on circumstantial evidence for a murder committed in a railway compartment, was given in full in 45 American Law Review 641, as an example of modern English trial methods. It certainly contains many points

of superiority to the average American trial. At the same time, however, there is a noticeable want of fairness in certain respects. Let us hope that the defects in American criminal trial procedure may be remedied without catching the diseases of English practice.

From the matter *dehors* the record given in the introduction, it is apparent that England, as well as the United States, is suffering from what an English judge termed "the substitution of trial by newspaper for trial by jury." The editor remarks, "Dr. Crippen and, to a lesser extent, John Dickman were both convicted before they were placed in the dock."

*A. M. K.*

THE PEOPLE'S LAW. By William Jennings Bryan. Funk & Wagnalls Co., 354-360 4th Ave., New York. 1914. pp. 64. $.30.

This is an address by Mr. Bryan delivered before the Constitutional Convention at Columbus, Ohio. The wisdom of the people of California in rejecting a call for a constitutional convention is apparent on reading this address. The advice there given is to include the initiative on the petition of a small number of voters, the referendum, the recall of all officers including judges, popular election of judges, amendment of the constitution by majority vote, and public service regulation. We have them all in California. It is gratifying to local pride to learn that we are living under a model constitution. When the other suggestions in the speech, such as the guarantee of bank deposits, are incorporated, how does such a constitution differ from other written law?

It would be interesting to have Mr. Bryan's opinion of direct legislation in California where at the last election the people voted on forty-eight propositions, including such technical, complex and lengthy matters as a complete water code and a Torrens Act. Nothing, however, could disturb the serene faith of Mr. Bryan in the power of a majority vote to settle right all disputed questions in philosophy, law, and science. What a surprise there will be to some if the people should decide that, after all, there are other ways of ascertaining truth than by counting heads. The absurdity of voting in ignorance on subjects which can be understood only after months of expert study, is already provoking discontent. Let us hope the reaction will not lead to the entire withdrawal of the people from political turmoil and agitation as pictured in Kipling's tale of 2150 A. D., "As Easy as A B C".

*A. M. K.*

THE ANTI-TRUST ACT AND THE SUPREME COURT. By William Howard Taft. Harper and Brothers, Franklin Square, N. Y. 1914. pp. 133. $1.25 net.

The time is ripe for gathering together the recent decisions under the Sherman-Anti-Trust Act and no one is better qualified